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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION. By The Rev. Wm. Walter Smith, General Secretary of the Sunday School Federation of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Secretary of the New York Sunday School Association, etc. Milwaukee: The Young Churchman Co. 1909.

Dr. Smith is one of the foremost workers in the cause of the advancement and improvement of Sunday-school methods to-day. He regards the work of the Sunday-school as of paramount importance in religious education; and would base it upon sound psychological and pedagogic principles. In the present volume he has collected a great mass of material bearing upon the subject, with copious suggested readings and an ample bibliography. At the end of each chapter are "questions for thought and discussion," making the book a suitable one for use in normal training classes. The book concludes with an interesting history of religious education, and, in particular, of the modern Sunday-school movement. A volume to be heartily commended to all who are interested in the religious training of the young.

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THE MAKING OF CARLYLE. By R. S. Craig. New York: John Lane Co.

As the title suggests, this volume purposes to be a biography of Carlyle, covering the period of his life from birth until his reputation as author was fully established, namely, with the publication of the "French Revolution." The biographer's intention is to present a less formal and more intimate "life" than biographies generally do, but he fails in this. Perhaps it is an impossible task. At any rate the author convinces us that Carlyle's personality is unsympathetic and unattractive.

The elements that entered into the "making" of Carlyle were the character of his borderland peasant parents, his strong clan feeling, the creed of his kirk, his wife Jane Welch, his loyal friend, Edward Irving, and — his dyspepsia.

The book suffers from several grave faults. One is diffuse style. Another is the constant recurrence of tiresome anticipation of future events. For example, the numberless allusions to Jane Welch and the married life of the pair. They begin almost on the first page and are often repeated in almost the same

words. The thread of the narrative, consequently, is often broken, and to one who is unfamiliar with Carlyle's life, the references to future events about which he as yet knows nothing, must be extremely annoying.

The author does not hesitate to lay bare the serious blemishes in Carlyle's character and work, but on the other hand he is too fulsome in his praise of his really good qualities. Such hyperboles as "Was there ever such a family?" "Was there ever such a brother?" "Thomas Carlyle was a very lonely old man, none lonelier then living;" "Carlyle was the bravest of the brave," etc., are tedious and unconvincing. Aside from these faults, the book is interesting and instructive enough. Two really fine portraits of Carlyle adorn the volume.

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A LORD OF LANDS. By Ramsey Benson. New York: Henry Holt & Co.

In the teeth of illustrious failures, Mr. Ramsey Benson has had the courage to put into fiction a situation which both Economics and Sociology might claim as their own. The tale he has made is thoroughly engaging; one would never suppose that a story of this class would engross the reader's attention to the point of demanding to be completed in one sitting; yet such is the case. An Irish-American switchman in a great city finds himself and his neighbors menaced by poverty too terrible to be endured. Selecting sixteen families, carefully chosen, and securing after a struggle the financial backing of a great railway president, he persuades his neighbors to answer the call of "Back to the land!" Each family is made the holder of thirty acres; the homes are thus close together and social contact easy, the advantages of a community secure, while the effects of community ownership are avoided. Within a few years the former carpenters, teamsters and mechanics have made themselves fairly successful farmers and have paid back the railway president's loans.

The author earns the reader's good humour by his reasonableness. The Robinson Crusoe style of the narrative—the switchman relates it all—with its naïveté, and the orthodox